

## [Pioneer Days]

Ruby Mosley Sa Angelo (STORY OF PIONEER DAYS)

"I was born in Burleson County 92 years ago," states Mrs. Sarah Chriestman Armstrong of San Angelo, Texas.

"I do not care about pioneers and relating facts pertaining to the early days. I am modern and live a modern life and like it. I do not sit and relate long stories that happened in the past; that's what makes people grow old. I try to stay young and in keeping with the times and forget the past.

"My father, (Haratio Chriestman) was Stephen F. Austin's surveyor. He surveyed Burleson County and many 2 others between Austin, Houston and San Antonio. That was before I was born, however I remember hearing him relate different obstacles they met with.

"Father had several slaves but they never ran away. He was a farmer, and the slaves and my two brothers did the work while father did the general managing. Other runaway slaves would come to our slave quarters to harbor during the days, sleep and get food, and travel between suns. Usually they were caught before they got very far. However, some escaped entirely.

"My father in the Civil War? No, he was too old, but contributed his part by sending two sons. One was a border guard and the other was in the army.

"I did a little spinning and weaving during the war, for the soldiers; everyone did whatever they could to help the cause. I remember food was hard to get and hard to keep after we got it.

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"Indians? I was most too young to remember anything about them. I saw plenty tame ones. One day mother was standing in the door with her babe in arms, when a young chief tried to scare her so that she would take us children and leave out so that he could steal everything we had. When the old chief came by, mother told him what had happened and he surely did reprimand the young chief for the unkind act. Mother stood still and showed him that she would not run from Indians and no further harm was done. My father was in many Indian fights but I don't know any particulars.

"I moved to San Angelo 55 years ago. It was a very small town at that time, in fact the fort and negro soldiers were of more attraction then San Angelo. Soon the citizens began to realize that the location was most ideal for a city and thus began trying to interest emigrants with money to locate in this section. Most of the old settlers came here with money and made more money, that's why they have such good footing."

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REFERENCE:- Mrs. Sarah Chriestman Armstrong, San Angelo, Texas. Interviewed October 24, 1938.